

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
- (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
- (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least ~~a~~one lengthwise fold in said diaper, said at least one lengthwise fold reducing a width of said diaper by at least 1/2.

51. (currently amended) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement; and
 - (g) wherein the vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm, whereby the packaged diaper is pocketable.
52. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 50, wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.
- 53-61. (canceled)
62. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 50, wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement has a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than about 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper.
- 63-72. (canceled)
73. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and

- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement;
 - (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from a nominal configuration by at least ~~a one~~ lengthwise fold in said diaper, said at least one lengthwise fold reducing a width of said diaper by at least 1/2; and
 - (h) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.
74. (currently amended) A packaged diaper that is vacuum-packed, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space;
 - (b) a compressible absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (c) wherein said compressible absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said compressible absorbent diaper has a nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressible absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said compressible absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging; and

- (f) wherein the packaged, vacuum-packed diaper has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm, whereby the packaged diaper is pocketable.

75-77. (canceled)

78. (currently amended) A packaged diaper comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of at least a partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
- (e) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a width, length, and height, and the sum of two of said three dimensions is less than 10 cm with no single dimension of said three dimensions exceeding 10 cm, whereby the packaged diaper is pocketable.

79. (canceled)

80. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:

- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
- (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
- (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal configuration with a nominal width, nominal length, nominal height and nominal volume when unrestrained;

- (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is the only diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;
 - (g) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of the partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement; and
 - (h) wherein said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from said nominal configuration by at least one lengthwise fold and at least once~~or~~ crosswise fold in said diaper, said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement having a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than or equal to 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper; and
 - (i) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a compressed width, compressed length, and compressed height with the compressed height of the diaper in its compressed state being approximately the same as the nominal height of the diaper in its nominal configuration.
81. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 80, ~~wherein said vacuum-packed diaper~~ further comprises a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.
- 82-85. (canceled)
86. (currently amended) A packaged diaper, comprising:
- (a) a sealed substantially air impermeable encasement completely enclosing an interior space with at least one airtight seal; and
 - (b) a compressed absorbent diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement;

- (c) wherein said compressed absorbent diaper is unsoiled;
 - (d) wherein, prior to packaging, said absorbent diaper has a nominal configuration with a nominal width, nominal length, nominal height and nominal volume when unrestrained;
 - (e) wherein, when disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement, said compressed absorbent diaper has a reduced volume that is less than the nominal volume of said absorbent diaper when unrestrained prior to packaging;
 - (f) wherein said interior space has at least a partial vacuum, whereby a pressure differential acts upon said encasement and said diaper to maintain said diaper in said compressed state, said encasement having been sealed after creation of the partial vacuum within said interior space of said encasement;
 - (g) wherein said diaper disposed within said interior space of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement includes a configuration that is different from said nominal configuration by at least one lengthwise ~~or~~fold and at least one crosswise fold in said diaper, said compressed diaper disposed within said interior space of said encasement having a foldedly reduced length and width each of which is less than or equal to 1/2 of the nominal length and width, respectively, of said diaper;
 - (h) wherein said diaper in said compressed state has three dimensions comprising a compressed width, compressed length, and compressed height with the compressed height of the diaper in its compressed state being approximately the same as the nominal height of the diaper in its nominal configuration; and
 - (i) wherein said packaged diaper is pocket sized.
87. (previously presented) The packaged diaper of claim 86, ~~wherein said vacuum-packed diaper further comprises~~ a tab that facilitates opening of said sealed substantially air impermeable encasement for release of said compressed absorbent diaper therefrom.

88-91. (canceled)